

# Mason Matters!

FALL 2017

## Mason District Supervisor Penny Gross

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## A Message From Supervisor Gross

### Special Interest Articles:

- **November 7 Ballot Information**
- **Absentee In-Person Voting for the November 7 Election**
- **Emergency Preparedness for Persons with Disabilities, Access and Functional Needs**
- **Prescription Take-Back Day**
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LOOK FOR **MASON MATTERS!** THE TELEVISION SHOW

on Cable Channel 16

EVERY THURSDAY AT 7 P.M.

EVERY FRIDAY & SUNDAY AT 6:30 P.M.

DAILY ON THE WEB AT [WWW.FAIRFAXCOUNTY.GOV/MASON](http://WWW.FAIRFAXCOUNTY.GOV/MASON)

Dear Mason District Neighbor:

Summer is over, school has started, and regular routines are being re-established. Mason District and Fairfax County have busy autumn and winter schedules, and there are several recommendations in this newsletter that may be interesting as you and your family plan your fall activity calendars.

Like many residents, I was horrified about the events in Charlottesville when civil protest turned ugly and tragic as the entire nation watched. Not long after that, Hurricane Harvey struck the Houston, Texas, and Gulf Coast areas with multiple feet, not inches, of rain, forcing hundreds of thousands of people to leave their homes and livelihoods. As I write this, another massive storm, Hurricane Irma, is poised to devastate Puerto Rico and Florida. The psychic and physical scars of both human-made and natural emergencies are enormous. If those same things happened here in Fairfax County, would we be prepared and/or have the resilience needed to surmount the challenges? Public safety is a basic service of local government, but government can't do it all; collaboration with neighbors, non-profit organizations, faith communities, schools – indeed, the entire community – is necessary to reduce potential damage and help folks get back on their feet.

To help foster that collaboration, identify existing resources and how to access them, and what else might be needed, you are invited to attend the **Resilience Summit** that I am hosting on **Thursday, October 12, at the Mason District Governmental Center, 6507 Columbia Pike in Annandale**. The event will begin at **2 p.m.** with a **Senior Safety Seminar**, geared especially for senior citizens and their caregivers/family members. Representatives from the Fire and Rescue Department, Police Department, and Office of Emergency Management will discuss safety in the home, personal safety, frauds and scams, and other items of special interest to our senior population. Then, at **4 p.m.**, the **Resilience Expo** will open, where everyone in the community can visit information stations about safety, consumer issues, citizens corps, how schools address crises, pet care during emergencies, debris management, and much more.

At **7 p.m.**, in a **General Session**, county agencies will present an overview of emergency preparations for natural and human-caused disasters, community assets, and other issues of interest for the entire community. All sessions will feature question and answer sessions. More information will be forthcoming, so please check the Mason District website at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mason](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mason) for updates, or call 703-256-7717.

On a lighter side, I will be hosting the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual **Mason District Holiday Town Gathering** on **Monday, December 11**, from 7 to 9 p.m., at the Mason District Governmental Center. This traditional kick-off to the holiday season will feature a live musical performance by local talent, refreshments, door prizes, and my annual State of the District presentation. I look forward to seeing you there.

It is an honor and a privilege to serve as your Mason District Supervisor, and I hope you will let me know whenever my staff and I can be of assistance to you. My office is open from 8:30 a.m. until 6 p.m. Monday through Friday, and we are ready to help with any county-related matter.







A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Penny Gross". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

## November 7 Ballot Information

On the ballot for the November 7, 2017 General Election will be elections for Governor, Lt. Governor, Attorney General, House of Delegates, and a \$315 million School Bond Referendum.

If approved, the Fairfax County Public Schools Bond Referendum would be used to plan and/or construct:

-  ⇒ two new elementary schools;
-  ⇒ relocate one modular building;
-  ⇒ plan additions to increase capacity at three existing high schools; and
-  ⇒ plan and/or renovate 10 elementary schools, three middle schools, and two high schools.

Information about the 2017 Public School Bonds Referendum is available at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/bond/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/bond/). Absent military or overseas citizens are eligible to vote using the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot, available at [www.elections.virginia.gov/registration/military-overseas/index.html](http://www.elections.virginia.gov/registration/military-overseas/index.html).

## Absentee In-Person Voting for the November 7 Election

Registered voters may vote absentee in-person at seven satellite locations, including the **Mason District Governmental Center**, 6507 Columbia Pike in Annandale, from **October 16 to November 4**. Voting hours are **Monday through Friday**, from 3:30 to 7 p.m. The site will be **closed on Monday, October 9** in observance of **Columbus Day**. Voting also is available **Saturdays, September 30, October 7, 14, 21, 28, and November 4 (last day to vote absentee in-person)**, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. **Please bring a current and valid photo identification.**

The **deadline to apply for an absentee ballot** by mail, fax, e-mail or online is **Tuesday, October 31 at 5 p.m.** Send completed absentee ballot applications to: **Mail:** Office of Elections, Box 10161, Fairfax, VA 22038; **Fax:** 703-324-3725; or **E-Mail:** [absenteeballot@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:absenteeballot@fairfaxcounty.gov). For inclusion in the Election, all mailed absentee ballots MUST be received at the Office of Elections by 7 p.m. on Election Day, **November 7, 2017**.

Students attending college outside the metropolitan area may call the registrar's office at 703-222-0776 to request an application for an absentee ballot. When the registrar receives the completed ballot application, a ballot will be sent directly to the student. Students' completed ballots must be received in the Electoral Board Office before 7 p.m. on Election Day.

If you have moved since you last voted, **update your address before October 16**. First-time voters are urged to contact the Fairfax County Office of Elections for instructions. Information is available on-line at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/absentee.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/absentee.htm), by phone at 703-222-0776; TTY 711, or by e-mail at [voting@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:voting@fairfaxcounty.gov). **The deadline to register to vote is October 16, 2017 at 5 p.m.; online: 11:59 p.m.**



**Please Note:** Because of a change in the law, Voter Information Cards may no longer be used for identification at the polls due to the requirement for a photo ID. **Fairfax County no longer issues Voter Identification Cards.** The Electoral Board now provides a letter as an acknowledgment of registration, but it is **not** an acceptable form of ID for voting.

## Emergency Preparedness for Persons with Disabilities, and Access and Functional Needs

For the millions of Americans who have disabilities, natural and human-made disasters present a substantial challenge. Fairfax County is committed to the inclusion of all by spreading the message of preparedness to its residents with disabilities, and access and functional needs.

**Make a Plan** - Know what disasters affect our local area and use Ready NOVA ([www.ReadyNOVA.org](http://www.ReadyNOVA.org)) to make your plan. Identify any assistive technology that is critical to support you during an emergency, and have back up devices available. Establish a personal support network to ensure assistance will be available during an emergency.

**Get a Kit** - Tailor your kit to your needs. Aside from general emergency kit items (three-day supply of food and water, flashlight, first-aid kit, battery-powered radio, extra batteries, cash), depending on your needs, include:

-  - Assistive technology and device instructions.
-  - Emergency health information.
- Caregiver/emergency contact information.
- Essential medications.
- Copies of medical prescriptions, doctors' orders.
- Medical insurance information.
- Back up batteries for assistive devices.
- Toileting items.
- Food and supplies for service animal.

**Stay Informed** - Sign-up for Fairfax Alerts to receive information about severe weather, road closures, neighborhood evacuations, and much more. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/alerts](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/alerts) to get started. The Functional Needs Registry is a tool for Fairfax County in pre-event emergency planning, resource management, and communicating with people who have identified a functional need.



To learn more about how to be prepared in Fairfax County, visit the Fairfax County Office of Emergency Management Web site at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/oem/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/oem/), or call 571-350-1000; TTY 711, or send an e-mail to [OEM-outreach@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:OEM-outreach@fairfaxcounty.gov).

## Prescription Drug Take-Back Day

The Fairfax County Police Department, in collaboration with the Drug Enforcement Agency, will collect unneeded, unused, and expired medications on **Saturday, October 28, from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. In Mason District**, residents may drop off prescription drugs at the following locations:

**Mason District Police Station**  
6507 Columbia Pike in Annandale

**Franconia District Police Station**  
6121 Franconia Road in Alexandria

**West Springfield District Police Station**  
6140 Rolling Road in Springfield

Please bring prescription medications in their original containers, and cross out identifying information. Drop off is free.

## Land Use News

**Graham Park Plaza** - Supervisor Gross invites you to a community meeting about a rezoning application submitted by Federal Realty for the redevelopment of their property known as Graham Park Plaza (formerly Loehmann's Plaza). The meeting will be held on **Monday, September 25** at 7:30 p.m. in the Large Conference Room of the Mason District Governmental Center, 6507 Columbia Pike in Annandale. The applicant will present the plans, and answer questions from the public. Department of Planning and Zoning staff also will be available to answer questions and receive comments.

**6060 Arlington Boulevard** - The applicant, Medical Building, Incorporated, is requesting a rezoning of the vacant medical office building at 6060 Arlington Boulevard to permit redevelopment that will complement surrounding uses and provide new residential opportunities in the Seven Corners area. The proposed redevelopment of the 3.97 acre property includes 37 townhouses, a combination of 22 rear-loaded garage units and 15 front-loaded garage units. The application is scheduled for a **public hearing** before the **Planning Commission** on **October 12**, and before the **Board of Supervisors** on **October 24, 2017**. For more information about the public hearing before the Planning Commission, visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/planning/meetingcalendar.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/planning/meetingcalendar.htm), and the public hearing before the Board of Supervisors, visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/government/board/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/government/board/).

**Fairfax County Transportation Priorities Plan (FY 2018 - 2023) Update** - The Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT) is hosting four public meetings in October to present information about proposed pedestrian, bicycle, spot improvements, and road widening projects. One of the public meetings will be held in the Mason District on **Monday, October 30**, from 7 - 9 p.m. at the Thomas Jefferson Library, 7415 Arlington Boulevard in Falls Church. Information about the complete meeting schedule, proposed projects, and how to provide public comment, will be available in mid-September at the FCDOT Web site, [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot), or by calling 703-877-5600; TTY 711.



Mason District Supervisor Penny Gross welcomes Washington Nationals Ryan Zimmerman, Hall of Famer Iván "Pudge" Rodríguez, and General Manager Mike Rizzo, to Mason District Park minutes before the dedication ceremony of the newly renovated baseball field.

The Iván "Pudge" Rodríguez Field at Mason District Park is the Nationals Dream Foundation's second Legacy Field. Dedicated on August 28, 2017, the fully renovated field was enlarged to accommodate 46/60 and 50/70 styles of youth baseball play, and has amenities for players and viewers at Mason District Little League games.

## School Bus Safety Reminders

The Fairfax County Police Department has four reminders about how drivers can help maintain safety when school buses' red lights are flashing.

- Two-Lane Road:** When school bus stops for passengers, all traffic from both directions must stop.
- Two-Lane Road with a Center Turning Lane:** When school bus stops for passengers, all traffic from both directions must stop.
- Four-Lane Road without a Median Separation:** when school bus stops for passengers, all traffic from both directions must stop.
- Divided Highway of Four Lanes or More with a Median Separation:** When school bus stops for passengers, only traffic following the school bus must stop.

Information about the bell schedule for the Fairfax County Public Schools is available at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/inside-fcpd/pdf/bellschedules2017-18.pdf](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/inside-fcpd/pdf/bellschedules2017-18.pdf).

## Coming Attractions

- The **Taste of Annandale** is scheduled for **Saturday, October 14, from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.**, on Tom Davis Drive, between **Columbia Pike and John Marr Drive**, and opens with a 5K Race at 10 a.m. Runners can register for the 5K Race at [www.njuko.net/2017tasteofannandale5k/select\\_competition](http://www.njuko.net/2017tasteofannandale5k/select_competition). For more information, visit <https://tasteofannandale.com>, or on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/TasteAnnandale2017>.
- The **Annandale Fall Festival Parade** will be held on **Saturday, October 28, from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.** For more information, and to participate, contact the Annandale Chamber of Commerce at 703-256-7232, or visit [www.annandalechamber.com](http://www.annandalechamber.com).
- The Annandale (Station 8) and Bailey's Crossroads (Station 10) Volunteer Fire Departments invite you to an **All You Can Eat Crab Leg and Shrimp Feast** on **Sunday, October 29, 2 - 5 p.m.** at the Annandale Volunteer Fire Department Station, 7128 Columbia Pike in Annandale. Tickets available online at [www.avfd.org](http://www.avfd.org) or [www.bxrvfd.org](http://www.bxrvfd.org). For more information, call 703-941-1328, or send an e-mail to [crabfeast@avfd.org](mailto:crabfeast@avfd.org).
- Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road in Alexandria, will host a **Gardener's Holiday Open House** on **Sunday, December 3, 12 - 4 p.m.** Treat your children to a holiday puppet show at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m., enjoy seasonal displays, live music and refreshments. To register in advance, call 703-642-5173, or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring).
- Mason District's Holiday Town Gathering** will be held on **Monday, December 11, from 7 - 9 p.m.** at the Mason District Governmental Center, Main Community Room, 6507 Columbia Pike in Annandale. Enjoy seasonal music by local performers, refreshments, and door prizes. For more information, call Supervisor Gross' Office at 703-256-7717.



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## *Mason Matters! The Newsletter to Keep YOU Informed*

### Community Notes

- **AARP** volunteers will return in **2018** to provide **free tax assistance** from **January 29 to April 17** at the Mason District Governmental Center, 6507 Columbia Pike in Annandale. (No Tax-Aide service on Presidents' Day, February 19, 2018.) **The schedule is: Mondays and Thursdays 1- 8 p.m.; Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays: 9:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.; and Saturdays: 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.** All returns will be filed electronically. A **Travel Team** is available to assist with preparation of tax returns **for residents with disabilities**, who cannot leave their homes, by calling 571-766-6268. For more information about AARP Tax Aide, visit [www.aarp.org/taxaide](http://www.aarp.org/taxaide), or call 1-888-227-7669.
- The **Bailey's Crossroads Community Shelter's Hypothermia Prevention Program** will be in effect **November 1, 2017 to March 31, 2018**. The program welcomes churches, organizations, and individuals to donate hot meals, breakfast items, beverages, and snacks. Clothing such as hats, gloves, adult size (new) thermal underwear, scarves, and gloves will be needed. For more information/volunteer, contact Sherry Edelkamp at [BaileysHypoShelter@gmail.com](mailto:BaileysHypoShelter@gmail.com), or call 703-966-1270. If you see someone at risk, call 911. Information about Fairfax County's program is available at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless/hypothermia-prevention](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless/hypothermia-prevention), or call 703-324-9492.
- The **Annandale Christian Community for Action (ACCA)** is a volunteer organization serving neighbors in dire **need** of assistance, including furniture. Please call 703-256-9513 and ACCA will pick up your **donated furniture** and give you a tax deductible receipt. The most needed items are mattresses/box springs (single, double, or queen size) sofas (not sleeper types), kitchen/dining room tables, and chairs, chests of drawers/dressers, coffee tables, end tables, and microwaves.

## **Mason District's Resilience Summit and Expo**

**Thursday, October 12, from 2 - 9 p.m.**

Mason District Governmental Center, Main Community Room  
6507 Columbia Pike in Annandale

Whether it is a weather-related emergency, a family emergency, or an individual challenge, resiliency is a person's capacity to overcome adversity by preparing for it in a healthy and productive way. Mason District's Resilience Summit, hosted by Supervisor Penny Gross, will feature public safety personnel, citizens corps, health care professionals, and more. **Senior Safety Seminar at 2 p.m., Resilience Expo at 4 p.m., and General Session** overview of emergency preparations at **7 p.m.**

### **Mason District Supervisor Penny Gross**

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